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LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 July 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls your attention to the fresh act of aggression committed by the United States Administration on 18 July 1999, when it bombed Iraqi civilian installations and killed 17 Iraqis and wounded another 17, most of them women and children, and he requests your intervention with a view to halting these grave violations of Iraq's sovereignty and of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 22 July 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that at 1120 and 1740 hours on 18 July 1999 the United States Administration committed a fresh criminal act that can be added to the series of such heinous acts that it has been committing against the Republic of Iraq and its people. Sixteen formations of United States and British aircraft, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace, carried out 14 missions from Saudi territory and 25 from Kuwaiti territory. They overflew a number of Iraq's southern governorates, namely Basrah, Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Najaf and Maysan, and they bombed several Iraqi civilian installations in Najaf Governorate. As a consequence, 17 Iraqi civilians were killed and another 17 were wounded, most of them women and children, a number of harmless dwellings were destroyed and a great deal of physical damage was done.

We condemn these repeated acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, and we request your intervention with the United States and the United Kingdom with a view to inducing them to halt and refrain from any repetition of actions that constitute a serious breach on the part of two permanent members of the Security Council of the sovereignty of an independent State and a founding Member of the United Nations, of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principle enunciated in Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

All the countries involved, whether those whose aircraft actually carry out such acts of aggression or those in whose territory the aircraft are based, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, we hold fully responsible for these acts and for the damage they have been causing as well as for the security-related, economic and moral threats that have been made against Iraq and its people. We affirm, in this connection, Iraq's legally established right, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, to seek compensation for the damage done to it by acts of aggression that are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq